

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented) A control unit connected to a machine for retrieving and processing information stored on a recording medium, said control unit operable by an operator to send instructions to the machine to execute a program stored on the recording medium, said control unit comprising:
  - a housing; and
  - a first finger-manipulatable controller shaft and a second finger-manipulatable controller shaft positioned respectively symmetrically on the housing.
3. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 2 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are sized and arranged so that the operator is able to manipulate the controller shafts with his fingers.
4. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 2 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are operatively coupled to a rotary controller.
5. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 2 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are mounted for pivotal movement and downward movement within an adapter.
6. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 5 wherein the adapter is generally cylindrical in shape.

7. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 5 wherein at least one of the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft is operatively coupled to a variable resistor so that when the controller shaft is pivoted the resistance varies.

8. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 5 wherein at least one of the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft is operatively coupled to a switch so that when downward force is applied to the controller shaft the switch is activated.

9. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 8 wherein when downward force is released from the controller shaft the switch is deactivated.

10. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 2 further comprising a pair of grips supportable by both palms of the operator.

11. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 10 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are disposed between the grips.

12. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 2 further comprising a first controller and a second controller, the first controller having a first set of push buttons protruding from one end of the upper surface of the housing, and the second controller having a second set of push buttons protruding from the other end of the upper surface of the housing.

13. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 2 further comprising a fifth controller and a sixth controller disposed on the front side of the housing which is the side remote from the operator, each of the fifth and sixth controllers having a set of protruding push buttons.

14. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 13 wherein each of the fifth and sixth controllers has at least two vertically arranged push buttons.

15. (previously presented) A system comprising:  
a machine capable of retrieving data from a recording medium and of executing a program retrieved from the recording medium in response to an instruction given by an operator to the machine;  
a control unit connected to the machine for controlling the machine, the control unit including:  
a housing; and  
a first finger-manipulatable controller shaft and a second finger-manipulatable controller shaft positioned respectively symmetrically on the housing.

16. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 15 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are sized and arranged so that the operator is able to manipulate the controller shafts with his fingers.

17. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 15 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are mounted for pivotal movement and downward movement within an adapter.

18. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 17 wherein at least one of the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft is operatively coupled to a variable resistor so that when the controller shaft is pivoted the resistance varies.

19. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 17 wherein at least one of the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft is operatively coupled to a switch so that when downward force is applied to the controller shaft the switch is activated.

20. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 19 wherein when downward force is released from the controller shaft the switch is deactivated.

21. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 15 further comprising a pair of grips supportable by both palms of the operator.

22. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 21 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are disposed between the grips.

23. (previously presented) A control unit connected to a machine for retrieving and processing information stored on a recording medium, said control unit operable by an operator to send instructions to the machine to execute a program stored on the recording medium, said control unit comprising:

a housing including a pair of grips supportable by both palms of the operator;

a first finger-manipulatable controller shaft and a second finger-manipulatable controller shaft positioned respectively symmetrically on the housing and disposed between the grips, the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft sized and arranged so that the operator is able to manipulate the controller shafts with his fingers;

a first controller and a second controller, the first controller having a first set of push buttons protruding from one end of the upper surface of the housing, and the second controller having a second set of push buttons protruding from the other end of the upper surface of the housing; and

a fifth controller and a sixth controller disposed on the front side of the housing which is the side remote from the operator, each of the fifth and sixth controllers having a set of protruding push buttons.

24. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 23 wherein the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft are mounted for pivotal movement and downward movement within an adapter.

25. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 24 wherein at least one of the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft is operatively coupled to a variable resistor so that when the controller shaft is pivoted the resistance varies.

26. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 24 wherein at least one of the first controller shaft and the second controller shaft is operatively coupled to a switch so that when downward force is applied to the controller shaft the switch is activated.

27. (previously presented) The control unit of claim 26 wherein when downward force is released from the controller shaft the switch is deactivated.